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[www.LewisandClarkVisitorCenter.org](http://www.LewisandClarkVisitorCenter.org)

February 24, 2020

Natural Resource Committee  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

re: Letter of Support for HR 3651

Dear Committee Members,

HR 3615, introduced by our Congressman Jeff Fortenberry on July 9, 2019, would allow our Center to generate additional income by leasing an undeveloped portion of our property to generate revenue to help fulfill our educational mission.

Our board of directors has been looking at ways to make our Lewis & Clark Interpretive and Trails Center more financially self-sustaining. There are approximately 40 acres of our 78 acre property that are currently underutilized.

One idea is to lease some of that land to the City of Nebraska City so they could develop more outdoor recreational facilities such as soccer fields, baseball and or softball fields. The lease agreement would require them to maintain the property in a manner that is compatible with its intended use based on our deed of transfer and memorandum of understanding with the National Park Service dated 2008.

We feel the additional traffic from games and tournaments would draw more visitors to our Interpretive Center. The existing nature trail around the perimeter of the site could be enhanced with new signage showing the natural flora and fauna that exists on that property. In addition, over time, other amenities could be added such as a native grass and wildflower demo plot, equestrian trails, dog park, archery range, etc.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully submitted,

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c.c. Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, Nebraska First District